

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2016

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Shawnee Community College Extension, 5385 Industrial Park Rd., Room 106, Metropolis, IL. Chairperson Pam O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Rebecca Lewey, Kay Phillips, Pam O'Connor, Sue Barfield, Kathy Rambeau, Ginger McBride.

Members Absent: Mary McMahan, Victor Metzger and Paul Jones.

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: None

Minutes: Sue Barfield made a motion to approve the January 28, 2016 meeting minutes. Kay Phillips seconded and it carried.

Communications: Kim Conway discussed the new Illinois laws that were effective January 1, 2016 and handed out a list of them for the board members to look at closer if they choose to. Kim Conway discussed a recent training she attended on Recovery Support Specialists and handed out a PowerPoint presentation with more information on their role and how it might interact with the HRA. There will be two vacancies on the Egyptian Regional HRA board effective July 1, 2016 due to Sue Barfield and Pam O'Connor reaching their 6 year term limit. The board was encouraged to seek new applicants and notify Kim of any interested parties so that applications could be sent out. The board will need to vote on new members at the May 26, 2016 meeting.

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

16-110-9011 State Agency: Alleges that a person with a mental illness is not being served in the least restrictive environment. The person has been incarcerated in the county jail for 8 months after being ordered to a state facility for mental health treatment. Kim Conway notified the board that since receiving this complaint, she has learned that this person has transferred to a state facility for mental health treatment but the board could open this case as a "look back" to ensure that everything was handled properly. The board discussed the matter and agreed that the state wide bed shortage is an issue that has been looked at previously and is a recurring problem, however, there is not much that the HRA can do to improve that situation due to the state's current budgetary problems. Therefore, since this person is currently receiving treatment, they did not see a reason to open a case since the issue has been addressed previously by this HRA board. Sue Barfield made a motion to not accept the complaint for investigation, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

16-110-9012 State Operated Facility: Alleges that 5 recipients have been given medication without guardian consent and their decisional capacity is questionable. Also, that a Petition for guardianship had allegedly been filed a year ago and nothing has been done with the guardianship. Since decisional capacity is a question, releases cannot be obtained from these

recipients, therefore this case would have to be opened as a general case to look at the facility policies and the board could also obtain masked records for individuals at this facility to review that proper procedures and policies are being followed. The issues to investigate would be providing treatment without informed consent and lack of adequate care due to inadequate referrals for surrogate decision making. Sue Barfield made a motion to accept the case for investigation, Kathy Rambeau seconded and it carried.

Other New Business: None

Unfinished Business: Ginger McBride made a motion to enter into closed session at 6:30 p.m. pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955/21) and Section 120/2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2); the motion was seconded by Rebecca Lewey and it carried. The following summary of items was discussed in the closed session: case progress was reviewed for 16-110-9004, 16-110-9005, 16-110-9006, 16-110-9007 and 16-110-9009; draft reports were reviewed for 15-110-9019 and 16-110-9002. Case closure was considered for 16-110-9001 and 16-110-9003. Rebecca Lewey made a motion to return to open session at 7:10 p.m. having taken no action in closed session, Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

Case Progress Reports:

Kim Conway provided the board with an update on the transfer status of a recipient who was the subject of a recently closed, substantiated case #14-110-9020 for least restrictive environment.

16-110-9004 Fayette County Jail – The investigation is complete and this case is ready for report.

16-110-9005 Chester Mental Health – The chart was reviewed and records requested have been received. This case is ready for a report.

16-110-9006 Chester Mental Health – The chart was reviewed for a second time. The recipient's discharge criterion is set at one year of no aggressive behaviors. He has not gone more than 2-3 consecutive months without incident. The investigation is complete and this case is ready for report.

16-110-9007 Chester Mental Health – The chart was reviewed for a second time and the HRA interviewed a staff member from the rehabilitation department. The investigation is complete and the case is ready for report.

16-110-9009 Union County Hospital – Alleges 1) inadequate care and treatment, 2) improper restraint, 3) inappropriate admission to a psychiatric hospital and 4) breach of confidentiality. The site visit at the hospital was completed. At least one more site visit needs to be scheduled and additional records need to be reviewed. The case is still under investigation.

Report of Findings:

15-110-9019 School for the Hearing Impaired – The draft report was reviewed; no changes or additions were made. Ginger McBride moved to approve the draft report as stated. Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

16-110-9002 Chester Mental Health – The draft report was reviewed; no changes or additions were made. Rebecca Lewey moved to approve the draft report as stated. Kathy Rambeau seconded and it carried.

Case Closures:

16-110-9001 Chester Mental Health – The facility response to substantiated findings was reviewed. The board was satisfied with the response and no additional concerns were noted. Kay Phillips made a motion to accept the response, close the case and make the report a part of the public record. Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

16-110-9003 Chester Mental Health – No response to the report was required due to having no substantiated findings, no response was received from the facility. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to close the case and make the report a part of the public record. Kay Phillips seconded and it carried.

Other Unfinished Business:

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2016 in Anna, Illinois. This meeting was scheduled to be held at Union County Counseling which is no longer available; therefore the exact location will be announced later.

Kathy Rambeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginger McBride, Secretary